



THE WATCHDOG



Watchdog Six sends.. Two years of reflection

By Col. Peter M. Champagne
Outgoing 8th MP Bde Commander

I wasn't suppose to command this brigade. I was slated to take command of the 18th Military Police Brigade in Germany. I strongly believe God led me to Korea for a purpose. My task was to transform this brigade into one that could "fight in win tonight".

My purpose was to develop magnificent warriors and leaders. Warriors that were disciplined, physically fit, mentally tough, and morally straight. Warriors who were experts with their weapons and were trained and ready to provide the commander with a lethal fighting force. Leaders who could lead from the front with confidence and could set the example and earn their soldiers' trust and respect. Leaders who inspired greatness and could train and care for their soldiers. That was my task and purpose

I can not take credit for what you have accomplished over the last 25 months. I can only take credit for setting the course, communicating the vision, aligning commitment for

that vision, creating some excitement and energy and having the courage to stay the course.

My focus was always down on the "Watchdogs", not up at the three and four star generals I worked for.

Initially I took a lot of heat from General Leon La-Porte for paying too much attention to the "Watchdog Brigade" and not enough as the provost marshal but, I didn't come to Korea to be a provost marshal.

I was determined to strike a balance between providing outstanding law enforcement and force protection for our Soldiers, family members and civilians while simultaneously training "to fight and win", 100% and then some!!!

One week after assuming command, on June 13, 2002 the tragic accident involving two young girls who were tragically killed by a military training event could have been an event which easily undermined my commanders' intent.

Believe me, a lot of pressure was put upon me to focus



Col. Peter M. Champagne served as the 8th Military Police Brigade Commander from June 2002 until July 2004

just on law enforcement in response to the unprecedented level of anti-US demonstrations.

But, I steadied the ship and continued on the course that my wife Marlene and I agreed upon when developing our command team charter. The charter which has been hanging over my desk since day one calls

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Force Protection Information

The U.S. Forces Korea Civil Gathering Hotline is an automated recording, updated daily intended to inform servicemembers and their families across the Korean peninsula about ongoing pro or anti U.S. civil gatherings. When on post simply dial **115**. The hotline informs callers about the dates and times of scheduled civil gathering as well as locations.

If you find yourself in one of these areas and need assistance simply call **112** for the Korean National Police. If in Seoul dial **02-7914-3004** or **3005** for Yongsan's military police.

If in other area of Korea, soldiers and their families can refer to the emergency phone numbers on the USFK SOFA card.

Reminder: All USFK Personnel and their family members are required to carry a SOFA card at all times. Be safe and use the Buddy System

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for achieving and maintaining a balance among three competing demands: combat readiness, soldier and leader development, and care for families.

Marlene and I wanted to set an example that would inspire commitment for military service and family values.

Our dream was to create a climate for positive change and maximum personal and professional growth. In a few words, grow the future leaders of the Army.

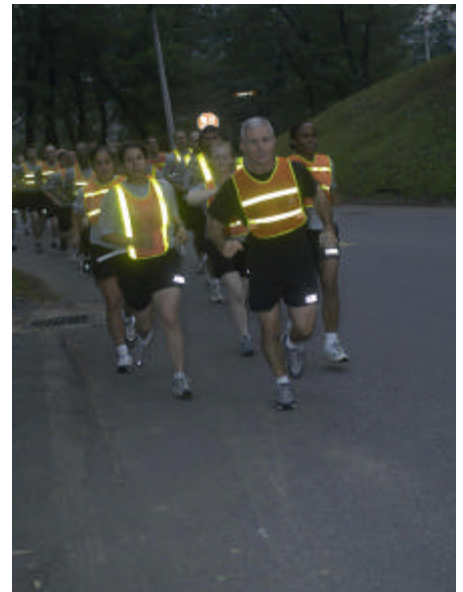
I will let you judge if we succeeded or failed. I am certain

about one thing though we got the vision and priorities straight. We got it right, two years before the new Army chief of staff and the rest of the Army did.

We have been living the new Army "Warrior Ethos" and "Soldier Creed" for the past 25 months.

Can I have a hooah! for that or at least an amen? I have been overwhelmed by your sacrifice, commitment, performance, and loyalty.

I told Marlene that I have not slept well for the past



Col. Peter M. Champagne stressed the importance of physical fitness achieving a brigade average of 262

three weeks and this is a very emotional time for me.

I have given each and everyone of you my full measure as a man, warrior, and commander. There is nothing left to give. You have received the better part of my heart and soul without hesitation or conditions.

In return, you have gave your full measure to me and the mighty "Watchdog" brigade. Do you realize that the commander, Gen. Leon J. LaPorte says we, meaning the "Watchdogs" are



One example of over 30 live-fires conducted over the past two years

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The Watchdog

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the standard by which the command is measured?

Gen. LaPorte told me he wanted us to be his Cavalry scouts in the rear area in case we were called into action. He also told me during one of my worse butt chewings in 27 years that I needed to make history and not repeat it.

Please allow me to read your history and you tell me if we met his commander's intent: 262 brigade APFT average, Almost 400 iron watchdog recipients, 95 % of all watchdogs certified on 4 mile run of 36 minutes, 6 mile ruck march in 90 minutes, and 12 mile ruck march in 3 hrs. 24 mile ruck march by the 142nd MP Company.

In addition, More than 30 live-fire exercises, joint and combined live fire exercises, night live fire exercise, convoy live fire exercises, sling load operations, indirect fires, medevac, close air support, terrain exercises, reflex shoots, close

quarters battle drills, shoot house exercises, stress shoots, 36 MK-19 gunneries, advance gunneries, 14 company-wide evaluations, four major theater exercises, controlling over 5000 demonstrations, VIP visits such as: Former President George Bush, Korean President Roh, SecDEF Donald Rumsfeld and U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney, security for the 50th anniversary of the Korean War, dozens of honor guard ceremonies and 2,400 rams missions

Has anyone either heard of or seen a more glorious record of achievement?

Your record speaks for itself as do your Watchdog values.

Now, I want to share with you 20 examples of Soldiers and leaders who truly reflect the essence of our values:

Sgt. "Boomer" Hong came to the Joint Provost Marshal Office in the early months of 2003 as a Private. What is truly remarkable is the fact that he could not swim, could barely knock out 20 push ups or sit-



Proving top of the line security and dog sweeps for VIP visit and on an everyday basis was the culmination of striking the balance between law enforcement and combat operations

ups, but now holds the distinct recognition as an Iron Watch Dog (Bronze) and won the KATUSA Physical Fitness Challenge during the 8th MP Bde Pig Bowl in the Fall of 2003. Boomer has increased his proficiency in English and continues to push the other KATUSAs in physical fitness.

Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Baxter has revamped the entire MWD program, was personally cited for this extraordinary support provided during the recent visit to Korea by the Vice President of the United States and he is personally responsible for the 1st ever, peninsula wide Military Working Dog competition held here in Seoul.

1st Lt. Brennan Matthews was overweight and could only swim 50m of freestyle with-



The importance of developing a solid Soldier and Leader Development program was one of the commander's priorities

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out stopping. By the time LT Matthews left the HHC (1 yr later), he was an Iron Watchdog, 30 pounds lighter, easily swimming up to 3000m in a workout, running his first marathon, and training for his first Ironman distance Triathlon.

Sgt. Marcus Perez earned the Iron Watchdog, competed in every intramural event and earned enough college credit to be qualified for OCS.

Staff Sgt. Norman Laird and his platoon has won the most KATUSA, soldier and NCO of the quarter boards. He was inducted into the Audie Murphy Club and is an Iron Watchdog.

Sgt. Kevin Edwards injured his knee while conducting a react to contact drill at a platoon-level FTX. During the company LFX he stepped up from his TL position to fill-in for his squad leader who had to return home on Emergency Leave. SGT Edwards gave 100% and then some when he, despite his injury, led and motivated his squad to successfully complete the LFX.

Sgt. Flores is a two-time member of the Battalion Warfighter Team, competing in 2002 as a team member and 2003 as the team leader. During 2003, he led the team to finish as the overall runner up in the MP Corps. In addition, he is the Eighth United States Army boxing champion for his weight class.

Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Mosier's platoon has over 85% of his soldiers enrolled in college programs, to include himself.

Cpl. Jin, W.S. has won the Company, Battalion, and Brigade KATUSA of the Quarter Board and secured a win for the Brigade KATUSA of the Year Board. He will be one of two KATUSAs in the Bri-

gade to attend the General Pak Board.

Pfc. Albert Merrifield filmed and created three green cycle videos, designed and managed the "552MP.COM" website, earned the Silver Iron Watchdog, maintained 285 APFT average during his tour and selected to a Team Leader position as a private first class.

Cpl. Suh M.S. has been selected to attend PLDC, has maintained 300+ APFT average and is a Volunteer coordinator for the Pusan Jin Middle School English Reading Program.

Pfc. Joseph Price was the first soldier in the 8th MP BDE to obtain the Gold Iron Watchdog.

Sgt. Curtis McKeithen took it upon himself to better the quality of life of Soldiers and headed up the renovation of the HHD, 728th MP Battalion barracks.

Capt. Melissa Lopez has led her company to improve their company PT average from a 249 to a 261. She has earned the Iron Watchdog and recently executed one of the most demanding and grueling eight week training cycles culminating in a 24 mile foot march.

Staff Sgt. Tara Stewart has won the battalion NCO of the Quarter for two consecutive quarters and mentored three additional Soldiers to win the last battalion quarter board.

Pfc. Mark Orlando won the battalion iron Soldier competition during the battalion organizational day and just completed the gold Iron Watchdog.

Sgt. Oh, Jin-soo, my driver was the first individual to earn the "Iron Watchdog." He earned the silver standard after learning how to swim.

Maj Andy Schell and Command Sgt. Maj. Tommie Hollins earned the brigade physical fitness medallion by running over 1,000 miles. A challenge they started in September.

Capt. Ernesto Hernandez a weak swimmer, who could only do five pull-ups, with an APFT average of 232 has earned the "Iron Watchdog" with an average of 281, completed 20 pull ups and completed the swim test better than the gold standard.

These Soldiers and the hundreds of them like them across the brigade have written a remarkable chapter in the "Watchdog" history book that has never been seen before and may never be repeated.

Thank you for an unforgettable night and the best two years of my life. God bless you, God bless the United States of America and the Republic of Korea and God bless all Watchdogs, 100% and then some!



Quality of Life was important for the brigade commander as he held many "Pig Bowl" events and outdoors sports to keep the Soldiers morale high during their tour in South Korea

Forever a "Watchdog"...

A Tribute to Col. Peter M. Champagne

Story, photos by Spc Alex Licea
Watchdog Staff Writer

As a young boy Peter M. Champagne, like most children, grew up dreaming about his future and making his mark on this world. Many children dream of becoming a sports hero or movie star, while others fantasized a life of fame and fortune.

Now with over 26 years of military service, the 50-year-old Champagne, now serving as an Army colonel, may not have accomplished all of his dreams he set out to do as a young boy growing up in Rhode Island, but his mark on the 8th Military Police Brigade is of global proportion.

Since arriving in South

Korea in June 2002, Champagne has strived to do one thing, make the 8th MP Brigade the best MP brigade in the Army, and do it at a level of his famous saying "100 percent and then some."

Within his first days of command, Champagne spoke about the importance of physical fitness which eventually would lead to the development of the "Iron Watchdog" Program, giving Soldiers a chance to build confidence within themselves to achieve any goal. The event also set the tempo to improve the brigade's overall Army fitness test average to over 260 points.

In his first days and weeks in command, the colonel



Champagne set the pace for the brigade always leading from the front

also spoke about his mission for the brigade and emphasized combat readiness as he began to transform the brigade from an all law enforcement unit to striking a balance between force protection and preparing for combat operations.

He stressed his five priorities which included physical fitness as well as weapons proficiency, Soldier and leader development, maintenance and quality of life for Soldiers.

Many say his vision was ahead of its time. Before the Army released their vision for the future of today's Armed Forces, the "Watchdog Brigade," and it's over 1,700 Soldiers and



Col. Peter M. Champagne gives Soldiers of the 55th MP Company a "thumbs up" during a live-fire exercise in the Fall of 2003. Champagne transformed the once all "law enforcement" brigade into one which now strikes a balance between law enforcement and combat operations support

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civilians, had been living and breathing the "Warrior Ethos."

Champagne's position was very complex on the peninsula. When he wasn't leading the largest MP Brigade in the U.S. Army, Champagne was performing as the Provost Marshal for the Korean Peninsula as he, along with his staff, established the CFC provost marshal office.

His work as the provost marshal speaks for itself as the vigorous leader successfully provided security for some of the top political and military leaders in today's era such as Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, Korean President Roh, Moo-hyun and most recently U.S. Vice-President Dick Cheney.

He continually sought to achieve higher goals, setting the example of service and duty to



"Watchdog Six" always enjoyed meeting Soldiers in the field. Here the colonel greets a young KATUSA Soldier for a job well done in the summer of 2002 as he myself participated in the training event

the Soldiers who serve under him, and reaching out to the local Korean civilian and military community to work together in peace and train together for war.

"He is the best boss I

have every had," said Lt. Col. Chad McRee, chief of provost marshal operations, during Champagne's farewell dinner. "He has had such a profound influence in my life with his leadership and guidance."

Many people also tribute his love and devotion to Soldiers, especially the lower enlisted troops within his ranks.

"He is a man who loves taking care of Soldiers," said Lt. Col. Scott Jones, long time friend and co-worker, during the colonel's farewell dinner. "He is not your typical brigade commander because he gets just as dirty as Soldiers when they are training in the field and would give his life for Soldiers."

"That is how much he cares," he added.

His service, hard work, keen foresight and daily law enforcement and force protection



The brigade commander greets students from the Kyung Hee University during a visit by the college to the brigade headquarters in the Summer of 2003. Champagne continually sought out to reach out to the Korean community during his command

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activities were directly responsible for the outstanding accomplishments of the brigade and provost marshal offices across South Korea.

His legacy is truly sealed within the proud history of the 8th MP Brigade.



Command Sgt. Maj. Tommie Hollins and Col. Peter M. Champagne celebrate after the brigade won the commander's trophy during KATUSA week 2004



The "Watchdog" commander states that the "Watchdogs" are number one during his final brigade run during the brigade "Pig Bowl" in June 2004

PICTURE OF THE WEEK



"Fond Farewell"

Col. Peter M. Champagne and Command Sgt. Maj. Tommie Hollins Sr. cut the cake to open up the festivities for the colonel's farewell dinner, June 28

MP Brigade gets new commander during change-of-command

Story, photos by Spc. Alex Licea
Watchdog Staff Writer



Lt. Gen. Charles C. Campbell, 8th Army commanding general bestows the 8th Military Police Brigade colors to Col. Falkner Heard III giving him command of the brigade

YONSAN- Col. Falkner Heard III became the new 8th Military Police Brigade commander, 8th United States Army, United States Forces Korea, Combined Forces Command, United Nations Command Provost Marshal during a change-of-command ceremony, Thursday at Knight Field on Yongsan's Main Post.

Heard replaced Col. Peter M. Champagne, who will be assigned to the Pentagon as a deputy to the provost marshal's general office in the Washington D.C. area.

Heard, a native of San Antonio, Texas, began his military career at Fort Bragg, North Carolina serving as a platoon leader for the 21st MP Company. During his time at Fort Bragg he also served as a training officer for the 503rd MP Battalion and commanded the battalion's headquarters detachment.

He was reassigned to Fort McClellan, Alabama where he assumed duties as a member of the tactical operations branch at the U.S. Army Military Police School. Subsequently, he performed duties as a company commander and training officer for the 795th MP Battalion.

In April of 1989, Heard was assigned as an exchange officer with the British Army in Tidworth, England where he deployed to Southwest Asia as part of the British contingent in Operation De-

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From left to right: Col. Peter M. Champagne, Lt. Gen Charles C. Campbell and Col. Falkner Heard III salute in unison during the playing of the national anthem



The color guard marches with the colors during the opening of the ceremony

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The outgoing and incoming commander, along with the troop commander Lt. Col. Chad McRee (middle), salute each unit during the pass and review portion of the change-of-command

sert Shield/Desert Storm.

Upon completion of his exchange tour, Heard served as a III Corps staff officer at Fort Hood, Texas. After graduation from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College he was assigned to the 1st MP Bri-

gade stationed in Fort Lewis, Wa.

During his tenure he assumed duties as the Provost Marshal's Operations officer and then as a battalion executive officer to the 704th MP Battalion.

Upon completion Heard was assigned as a member of the Army Staff, office of the deputy chief of staff for operations and plans at the Pentagon.

Following his assignment at the Pentagon, Heard commanded the 76th MP Battalion at Fort Bliss, Texas where he also served as the installation's Provost Marshal.

Following his command, he was assigned to Saudi Arabia serving as a military advisor to the Saudi brigade "Special Bri-

gade" that protects the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia.

His previous assignment before commanding the "Watchdogs" was serving as the Deputy Director, Plans and Operations of the Army War College in Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

Heard has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Sociology from Texas A&M University, a Master of Arts Degree in Clinical Psychology from St. Mary's University and a Master of Strategic Studies from the Army War College.

Heard's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with five oak-leaf clusters, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal with bronze star, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal with two stars, Overseas Ribbon with numeral two, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia), Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait), the British Gulf Medal, the Air Assault Badge and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

Heard is married to the former Trudy Blais and have three children.



Left: Champagne thanked all the Soldiers for their hard work, commitments and sacrifices during his two years in command of the brigade